

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2017

The Honorable John Carter
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Homeland Security
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Homeland Security
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard:

As you prepare the FY 2018 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we respectfully request an increase in funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) to pre-sequestration levels of \$887 million. Since its inception following the terrorist attacks on 9/11, the UASI program has been the most effective vehicle for directing homeland security funds where they are most needed: our nation's highest-threat metropolitan areas.

Cities across our country are facing real and growing threats from terrorism every day. That is why it's so important that we provide our cities with the funding they need to invest in a wide variety of resources and keep Americans safe. In the first hours, and even days, after an emergency, the burden of responding to and managing the emergency falls almost entirely on local first responders and their regional partners. UASI funds have been critical to providing first responders with the tools and training they need to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks and other disasters. In addition, UASI has encouraged an unprecedented level of regional public safety cooperation and communication, as well as improved coordination between local, state, and federal first responders.

The potential danger to our high risk urban areas has not gone away, yet funding for this important grant program and the number of cities eligible for this funding has been reduced significantly in recent years. Failure to maintain strong funding for UASI threatens to undermine the successful federal investment we have made in regional homeland security capacity over the past decade.

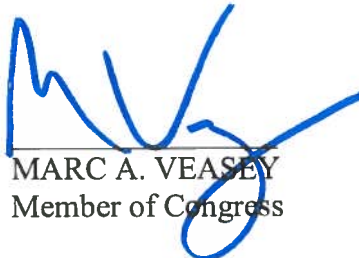
We understand the current constraints on the federal budget and appropriations process, but keeping our cities safe must remain a top priority. In light of the threat our urban areas face, we urge an \$887 million funding level in the FY 2018 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress



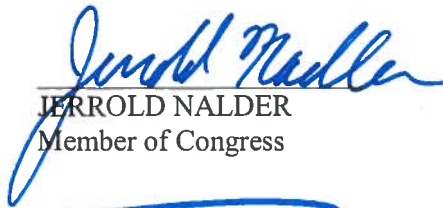
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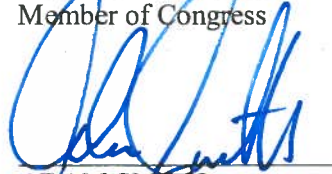
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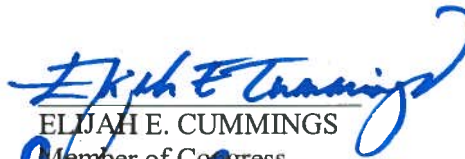
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JOHN SARBANES
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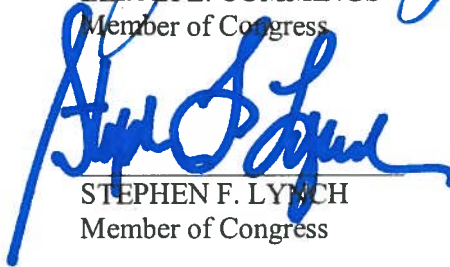
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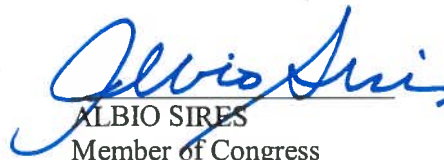
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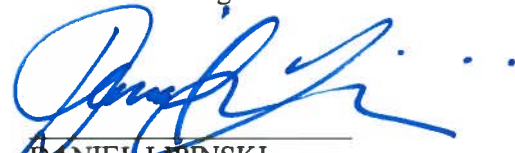
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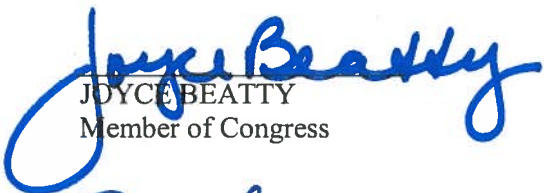
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